

SUSSEX COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2013

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:04 p.m. on June 19, 2013, at Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, by Chairman Jeff Reed.

Advisory Committee Members Present:

Honorable Sam Wilson, County Council
Mike Izzo, Sussex County Engineer

Todd Lawson, Sussex County Administrator

Gus Croll Garrett Dernoga Jeff Reed Mark Ryan

Jim Hickin, Sussex County Airport (Non-member)

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Rick Garner Larry Kelley Richard Wilson
Julie Wheatley, Director, Sussex County Economic Development

1. Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Mike Izzo, seconded by Garrett Dernoga, to approve the agenda as distributed. The agenda was unanimously approved by consent.

2. Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mike Izzo, seconded by Garrett Dernoga, to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2013 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by consent.

3. Declaration of any letters, opinions or other guidance from outside the Advisory Committee presently or in the past

There were no declarations presented.

4. Wings and Wheels Update

Linda Price, of the Georgetown Chamber, updated the committee regarding events for the Wings & Wheels event to be held on Saturday, October 5th, with a Canteen show on Friday, October 4th. The event is growing each year and use of social media has helped promote the event. It was estimated that approximately 8,000 people were in attendance in 2012 with an expected attendance this year between 9,000 – 10,000 people. It was

noted that there will be no parking at the airport this year. Parking will be available at nearby locations with shuttle service available.

5. Wildlife Management Update

Jim commented on the following issues:

There are a few areas in the fence that are broken and need repairing which may be allowing deer to get in and out. Due to the rain these areas are difficult to get to until the water recedes.

The geese built nests in a new location this year and we missed the nesting process to reduce the number that hatch.

There were foxes seen near Runway 10-28 recently.

Jeff Reed noted there appeared to be an increase in the number of buzzards and asked Jim if there was something that could be done about them. Jim will check into it.

6. Airport Update

Jim Hickin discussed the following updates:

- A. Arena's, the new airport restaurant has opened and are doing very well.
- B. Two new banner towing operators are operating at the airport now.
- C. Runway Extension- Due to the heavy rains we have experienced, the schedule for construction is somewhat behind. The electricians are still proceeding with their work installing PAPI lights, etc. Paving is expected to begin in mid-July if weather holds out. There will be a three day closure of RW 4-22 during this process. Garrett asked if there was any way the entire runway wouldn't have to be closed during this time. Jim will check into this.

Bids for Package 2 of the project were opened June 12, 2013 and George & Lynch was the low bidder. Discussion continued on approximate closing and opening dates for the project. It is expected the first closure to occur on September 11 until October 2 and reopen for one week. It will then be closed again until October 31. Garrett Dernoga asked that with NASCAR occurring the week before the first reopening date that it may be helpful to let the contractor know of the date and see if they could work around that.

During the time of construction, Jim noted that there will be no options to reopen the runway for any aircraft.

- D. Industrial Park Paving: Broad Creek Avenue repairs are expected to occur this Saturday, May 22.
- E. Concrete Apron: Repairs to the concrete apron will begin soon. There will be a pre-construction meeting Thurs., June 20 at 10 am in Jim's office. Mike Izzo stated that there would be a follow up meeting with Garrett and possibly others to discuss the effect of the project.
- F. Sussex County Council's budget was approved June 18th and it includes some capital improvement projects to include: stormwater for the ditches; pavement work; "buzzard" ditch; State Police hangar area repairs; industrial park drainage issues as well as electrical improvements for Taxiway A.
- G. Business Plan- The consultant is still working on the business plan which should be presented to the committee later this summer or at the next meeting.
- H. Jeff Reed asked if Jim had checked with FAA regarding the VOR 4 adjustment. Jim Hickin stated that FAA has checked the approaches and aren't aware of any problems.
- I. Mike introduced Joe Wright, who was recently hired as the Asst. County Engineer. He will be assisting with various projects.

7. Economic Development Update

Julie was absent from the meeting therefore there were no economic development updates.

8. Delaware Gasoline Tax Discussion

Garrett Dernoga stated that nothing has changed since March as he hasn't spoken to Rep. Ruth Briggs King since that time.

9. Public Comments

Gerald Wingate asked if the airport has ever considered selling parking spaces for the Wings & Wheels event. Jim Hickin clarified that the Wings & Wheels event is a Georgetown Chamber event and that at this time there is no parking availability at the airport for the event.

Sam Wilson asked why the parking and/or vendors couldn't be located on the other side of the airport to accommodate parking issues. Jeff Reed commented it should be a

decision for the Wings & Wheels committee and maybe a possible discussion item for their committee for next year's event.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center, Georgetown, Delaware.

A motion to adjourn was made by Garrett Dernoga, Seconded by Gus Croll. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Wise, Clerk III Technician
Sussex County Airport